

Garbage Gazette

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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Food Residual Study Completed

The CT DEP has funded and recently completed a project that identifies, quantifies and maps all of the large-scale commercial and institutional locations in Connecticut where potentially recyclable food scraps are generated, and has integrated this information into their Geographic Information System (GIS).

The project was undertaken to help improve the climate for recovering and recycling Source-Separated Organic Materials (SSOM) in Conn. with a goal toward increasing recycling rates and avoiding the need for expanded waste incineration and disposal. Source-Separated Organic Materials were defined in this project as food wastes from manufacturing, distribution, and/or kitchen operations that could potentially be separated from other wastes at the point of generation. In addition, there were size cut-offs established in order to limit the number of data points being managed and to identify those generators of most interest to a potential population of haulers and processors. The products of the project are:

- A detailed report that explains how the study was carried out and the results of the research.
- A Food Waste Generator Database containing a list of all the Connecticut businesses and institutions included in the study. It has 1,314 entries and 44 fields of information including location, contact person, waste type, estimated generation rate, number of employees/students/inmates, etc.
- A series of Food Waste Generation Formulas for specific generator categories. For example, for a residential college or university, estimated Food Waste generation in (lbs/yr) = $0.35 \text{ lbs/meal} \times N \text{ of students} \times 405 \text{ meals/student/yr}$.
- GIS capabilities to create and display customized organics “density maps”, with the potential to graphically display the concentration of organics wastes by individual generator, by generator type, by waste type, waste quantity, and location.

The combination of the report, databases and GIS capabilities, which to DEP’s knowledge is unique in the US, allows waste planners, haulers, entrepreneurs, and others to ask for almost any combination of information about commercially generated organics wastes in CT. It can be used to facilitate decisions about how best to target organics for recovery, which generators to target, how to structure collection routes and infrastructure, and where to site organics recycling facilities. The address and latitude/longitude information can be plugged into one of the route planning software programs used by haulers to determine the most efficient route for an organics collection.

It is DEP’s hope that the information provided by this project, with the mapping capabilities to bring the information to life, will provide the opportunities to create recycling markets for SSOM in Conn., and to create jobs and economic activity centered on this recycling opportunity.

A complete copy of the report, databases and maps can be viewed on-line at www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/compost/ssomfile/organicmap.htm. Eventually, DEP hopes to have interactive GIS capabilities on-line that will enable users to query specific information and generate customized maps using ArcIMS software. However, until this capability is available, please contact K.C. Alexander at 860-424-3239 or kathy.alexander@po.state.ct.us for more information or to discuss your specific mapping needs.

Ceremony Held to Honor Bookmark Contest Award Winners

Last fall, the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition sponsored a design-a-recycling-bookmark for children in grades K-12 as part of our America Recycles Day celebration. Over 500 designs were entered at all grade levels. A total of twelve winners were chosen from the entries. A ceremony was held at the Children's Garbage Museum in Stratford in mid-January to honor the winners. Each child received a unique plaque made from recycled detergent and shampoo bottles and a tote bag filled with products made from recycled materials. The children and their families were also treated to a tour of the museum. These designs will be made into bookmarks that will be distributed as giveaways at our next ARD celebration in Fall 2002. The names of the winners are as follows:



Kristen Laracuenta, K
Our Lady of the Assumption
Fairfield

Bat Sheva, 6th grade
New Haven Hebrew Day School
Orange

Sarah Yoney, 1st grade
Our Lady of the Assumption
Fairfield

Cassandra Baptista, 7th grade
Sacred Heart School
Danbury

Krystina Morgan, 2nd grade
Our Lady of the Assumption
Fairfield

Kelly Ferenz, 8th grade
Sacred Heart School
Danbury

Lizzie Perkins, 3rd grade
Beecher Road School
Woodbridge

Elissa Voccola, 9th grade
Shelton High School
Shelton

Refael Listman, 4th grade
New Haven Hebrew Day School
Orange

Sara Howard, 10th grade
Saint Joseph School
Bridgeport

Kyle Sheehan, 5th grade
Thomas Hooker School
Meriden

Steven Procopio, 12th grade
Fairfield Prep
Fairfield

Visit Mansfield Middle School's Composting Website



Mansfield Middle School has recently launched a website that provides information about its school-wide composting program. This program was implemented during the 2000-01 school year with funding provided by a CT DEP grant. Students now routinely separate their food scraps in the cafeteria for on-site composting in a multi-unit outdoor composting bin. To learn more about this successful and exciting program visit

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/mms/compost/index.htm.

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